

British Politics.

THE London papers discuss the unprecedented scene that occurred in the House of Commons on March 28. On that day a motion was carried nemine contradicente, directly condemning the policy of the Prime Minister. The motion could not have been expressed in terms more direct or aggressive. The motion affirmed, "that in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of Fiscal Retaliation." Mr. Walton was the mover, and his seconder was Mr. Fletcher Moulton. An amendment was moved by Mr. Lambton, a Unionist Free Trader, who proposed to add the words "in so far as it is destructive of Parliamentary control over taxation." Mr. Lambton explained that he thought the Prime Minister ought to tell the House whether he meant his scheme of Retaliation to be passed through the House of Commons or whether it was to be left to the Executive Government. Mr. Asquith summed up the case against Retaliation on four grounds: First, the necessity is unproven; secondly, it involves the creation of a general tariff to be imposed or removed at the will of the Executive; thirdly, experience shows that tariffs put on for purposes of Protection; fourthly, no country has reason to dread international reprisals as ourselves, seeing that four-fifths of our exports are manufactured goods and nine-tenths of our imports are food, raw material, or half made up material.

Mr. Arthur Elliott made an incisive speech on the Government's treatment of the House of Commons. "It was a fatal mistake for any Executive to suppose that

the House of Commons only existed to discuss those subjects which the Executive out of its generosity chose to place before it." Mr. Balfour, of course, was absent. That no element of ignominy might be lacking in his position, his defence was undertaken by Mr. Rowland Hunt. The Speaker informed the Leader of the Opposition, in answer to a question, that it would be formally recorded that this motion had been carried nemine contradicente. That debate was followed on Wednesday by another field day for Free Trade. Mr. Osmond Williams had given notice of a motion declaring that Mr. Chamberlain's policy would cause great injury to the shipping industry and to other industries dependent on it. The resolution was carried without a division and important speeches were made by Colonel Denny, Mr. Russell Rea, and Mr. Bryce. Mr. Rea traced the prosperity of British shipping to the abolition of the navigation laws and growth of Protection in other countries. "We have a practical monopoly. We are adding 450,000 tons a year and all the rest of the world is adding 400,000 tons. Mr. Balfour was asked on Wednesday a good many pertinent questions on the subject of his conduct. He carried his acting a little too far when he affected to know nothing about the proceedings of the House of Commons on the preceding evening. He had to be told by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, who was obliging enough to find the record in the papers on the table what had happened. The Canadian House of Commons would quickly resent anything like this from Laurier.

If Mr. Balfour had done himself injury